

Please amend the present application as follows:

Claims

The following is a copy of Applicant's claims that identifies language being added with underlining ("___") and language being deleted with strikethrough ("—"), as is applicable:

1-15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently amended) A data storage system comprising:

multiple, separate housings arranged in a vertically stacked relationship, each housing defining an interior and each including:

a first opening providing access to the interior; and

a first data media exchange apparatus configured as a first drawer, the first data media exchange apparatus mounting a plurality of media storage devices for each storing a plurality of data media, the first data media exchange apparatus being movable between a closed position in which the media storage devices are located within the interior of the housing, and an open position in which at least a portion of the first data media exchange apparatus extends through the first opening and horizontally outward from the housing and in which at least some of the media storage devices are located outside the interior;

a data exchange device for exchanging data stored on the plurality of data media;

a media handling system for transferring the plurality of data media between the plurality of media storage devices and the data exchange device;

a first bulk access apparatus ~~configured to~~ movable between a closed position in which the first bulk access apparatus covers a plurality of the first openings of each of the multiple, separate housings, and an open position in which the first bulk access apparatus provides access to the first openings in the data storage system, each of the openings providing access to one of the media storage devices; and

a locking mechanism configured to provide a first state in which the first bulk access apparatus is securely attached to the data storage system and in which access to the ~~plurality of~~ first openings is restricted, and a second state in which the first bulk access apparatus is not locked to the data storage system and access to the ~~plurality of~~ first openings is provided, wherein the locking mechanism includes both an electromechanical device and a key lock.

17. (Currently amended) The data storage system of claim 16, wherein the first bulk access apparatus comprises a hinged door that is attached to the data storage system.

18. (Currently amended) The data storage system of claim 16, wherein the first bulk access apparatus comprises a removable panel.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently amended) The data storage system of claim ~~19~~ 16, wherein the key lock is attached to the first bulk access apparatus and a key latch is attached to the data storage system.

21. (Currently amended) The data storage system of claim 16, wherein the ~~locking mechanism further~~ electromechanical device comprises a solenoid lock.

22. (Currently amended) The data storage system of claim 21, wherein the ~~locking mechanism~~ solenoid lock includes a lock body that is attached to the data storage system and a solenoid latch is that attached to the first bulk access apparatus.

23-31. (Canceled)

32. (New) The data storage system of claim 16, wherein the media storage devices are oriented transversely with respect to the data media exchange apparatus to which the media storage devices are mounted.

33. (New) The data storage system of claim 16, wherein each of the multiple, separate housings further includes:

a second opening providing access to the interior; and

a second data media exchange apparatus configured as a first drawer, the second data media exchange apparatus mounting a plurality of media storage devices each storing a plurality of data media, the second data media exchange apparatus being movable between a closed position in which the media storage devices are located within the interior of the housing, and an open position in which at least a portion of the second data media exchange apparatus extends through the second opening and horizontally outward from the housing and in which at least some of the media storage devices are located outside the interior.

34. (New) The data storage system of claim 33, further comprising:

a second bulk access apparatus movable between a closed position in which the second bulk access apparatus covers the second openings of the multiple housings, and an open position in which the second bulk access apparatus provides access to the interior of the housings via the second openings.

35. (New) The data storage system of claim 16, wherein the media handling system is operative to transfer data media without moving the data media through any of the first openings.